

Weekly wrap up

Friday, 24 July 2009

						Home	Away
7.40pm		Carlton	vs.		Collingwood	M. C.G.	
						\$1.85	\$1.85

Saturday, 25 July 2009

2.10pm		Geelong	vs.		Hawthorn	M. C.G.	\$1.45	\$2.60
2.10pm		Fremantle	vs.		West Coast	Subiaco Oval	\$1.57	\$2.30
7.10pm		Brisbane Lions	vs.		Kangaroos	Gabba	\$1.13	\$5.50
7.10pm		St. Kilda	vs.		Western Bulldogs	Etihad Stadium	\$1.60	\$2.25

Sunday, 26 July 2009

1.10pm		Melbourne	vs.		Sydney	Manuka Oval	\$3.15	\$1.33
2.10pm		Essendon	vs.		Richmond	M.C.G.	\$1.28	\$3.50
4.40pm		Adelaide	vs.		Port Adelaide	AAMI Stadium	\$1.50	\$2.50



This tank, not ashamed to be seen in public, refused to comment

"Tanking" continues to be a hot topic in this AFL with Richmond coach Terry Wallace admitting to that-which-cannot-be-named. At least, that's how AFL CEO Andrew Demetriou regards it. You'd think that someone who is paid an annual salary of \$1.4 million would be a little savvier about what goes on in the organisation he is meant to be running.



Currently, Melbourne (three wins), Fremantle (four wins) and West Coast (four wins) are the teams that could benefit from tanking this season. All eyes are on Melbourne though (figuratively speaking, because their most recent match drew only 7,311 fans to watch them at Manuka Oval in the ACT). It's going to be hard for them to lose convincingly, given their next 3 rounds against some of the lowest ranked opponents possible

Round	Opponent	Rank	Venue
18	vs Richmond	12th	M.C.G.
19	vs North Melbourne	13th	Etihad Stadium
20	vs Fremantle	15th	M.C.G.

Adding to all this intrigue is the fact that, in 2010, the Gold Coast team will enter the draft and become the AFL's 17th team in 2011. And in 2010, the Gold Coast will receive nine of the first 15 draft picks making this year's draft crucial for the competition's bottom teams as they seek to bolster their lists.

Taking a trick from Demetrious and turning away from the issue of tanking, we now have a new candidate for idiots of the week thanks to Western Bulldogs, who unwittingly started the fourth quarter with an extra man on the field. They may have gotten away with it too, except that the Dogs officials jumping up and down and shouting at their players attracted the attention of the umpires who promptly awarded the requisite 50m penalty to St Kilda. However, I want to know why official AFL rules weren't followed. Rule 5.5.3 of the Laws of Australian Football states:

5.5.3. Players exceeding Permitted Number

Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

- a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to the captain or acting captain of the opposing Team, which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending Team;
- b) a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded; and
- c) **the Team shall lose all points which it has scored in the Match up to the time of the count.**

And finally, two riveting matches which were decided in the dying seconds – Essendon vs Richmond where Richmond maintained a 5-point victory with about 20 seconds to spare and Geelong v Hawthorn, a thrilling Grand Final rematch where Geelong won by a single point; only the third instance of an AFL team winning with an after-the-siren behind.

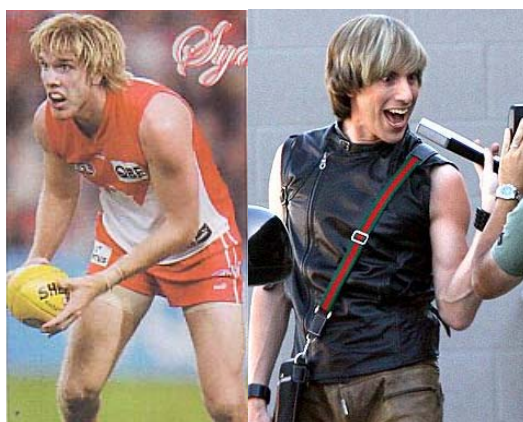
The weekly prize this week is split between the two tippers with suitably lucky default strategies: Emily and Kim, each of who have a fallback which applied in the case of the seemingly tautologically even-odds of Carlton vs Collingwood. Meanwhile Jesse and Hugh continue their epic struggle for first place.

Fun & Games

Phooty lookalikes



*I reckon St Kilda's Nick Riewoldt looks like an alpaca...
(Off topic, but what noise does an alpaca make? "Wark"?)*



*I don't know who this (ex?) Sydney player is, but he's a
splitting image of Austrian fashion alter-ego Bruno*